

Product/Service Description Document
Experimental Standardized Local Weather Forecast Office Avalanche Weather
Web Page
December 2021

Part I - Mission Connection

- a. Product/Service Description – An experimental standardized local Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Avalanche Weather web page has been developed, and is available for comment and review at 9 WFOs through April 30, 2022. These WFOs are: Gray, Pocatello, Salt Lake City, Riverton, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Pendleton, Boise, and Great Falls. If comments are favorable, this experimental web page will be considered for implementation on a wider scope for the winter of 2022-2023. If implemented, after satisfying the minimum requirements, the local office may also display additional information on the web page.
- b. Product Type – Experimental.
- c. Purpose – As of September 2021, 10 offices host some form of a local avalanche weather web page. These varied considerably in design and content. Comments received from past avalanche information surveys identified both an appreciation of some of already existing WFO-specific avalanche weather webpages and an understood need for expansion to more WFOs. There was also a stated desire for these pages to be more consistent from WFO to WFO.

A standardized version of this web page will make each local WFO web page consistent with one other, thereby increasing the visibility and accessibility of NWS avalanche weather information. This will attain the goal of more organized and easy to navigate web pages.

If adopted operationally, this experimental web page would make each local WFO web page consistent with one another, thereby increasing the visibility and accessibility of NWS avalanche weather information.

- d. Audience - The audience of the local WFO avalanche weather web pages will be a relatively diverse audience. The primary users are expected to be the avalanche centers that are located within the County Warning Area (CWA) of the WFO that is hosting the web page. Other users of the web pages are expected to include National Weather Service (NWS) partners, including but not limited to emergency management, departments of transportation, search and rescue operations, and law enforcement, the general public, those with an interest in mountain recreation, and commercial entities.
- e. Presentation Format – The experimental web page is available at the following links:

WFO Gray - <https://www.weather.gov/gyx/AvalancheWeather>

WFO Pocatello - <https://www.weather.gov/pih/AvalancheWeather>

WFO Salt Lake City - <https://www.weather.gov/slc/AvalancheWeather>

WFO Riverton - <https://www.weather.gov/riw/AvalancheWeather>
WFO Anchorage - <https://www.weather.gov/afc/AvalancheWeather>
WFO Fairbanks - <https://www.weather.gov/afg/AvalancheWeather>
WFO Pendleton - <https://www.weather.gov/pdt/AvalancheWeather>
WFO Boise - <https://www.weather.gov/boi/AvalancheWeather>
WFO Great Falls - <https://www.weather.gov/tfx/AvalancheWeather>

- f. Feedback Method – The NWS is seeking comments on the Experimental Standardized Local Weather Forecast Office Avalanche Weather Web Pages through April 30, 2022 via the on-line survey at:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WFOAvalancheWebpages_Exp2021-2022

Questions or comments regarding the Experimental Standardized Local Weather Weather Forecast Office Avalanche Web Pages should be directed to:

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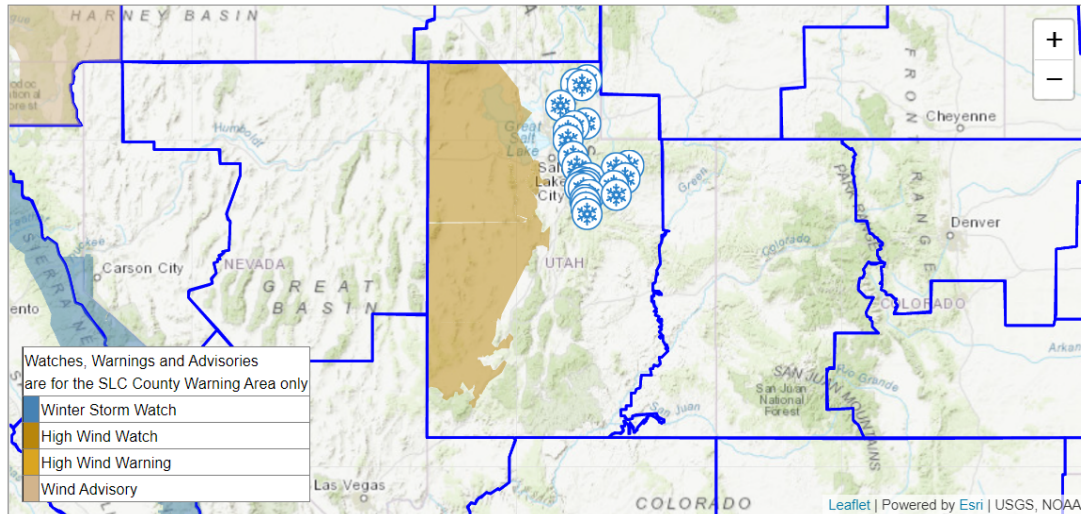
Part II – Technical Description

Format and Content – The website is split into two sections, a nationally consistent display of avalanche weather information and avalanche alerts at the top, and then a section for locally specified content below.

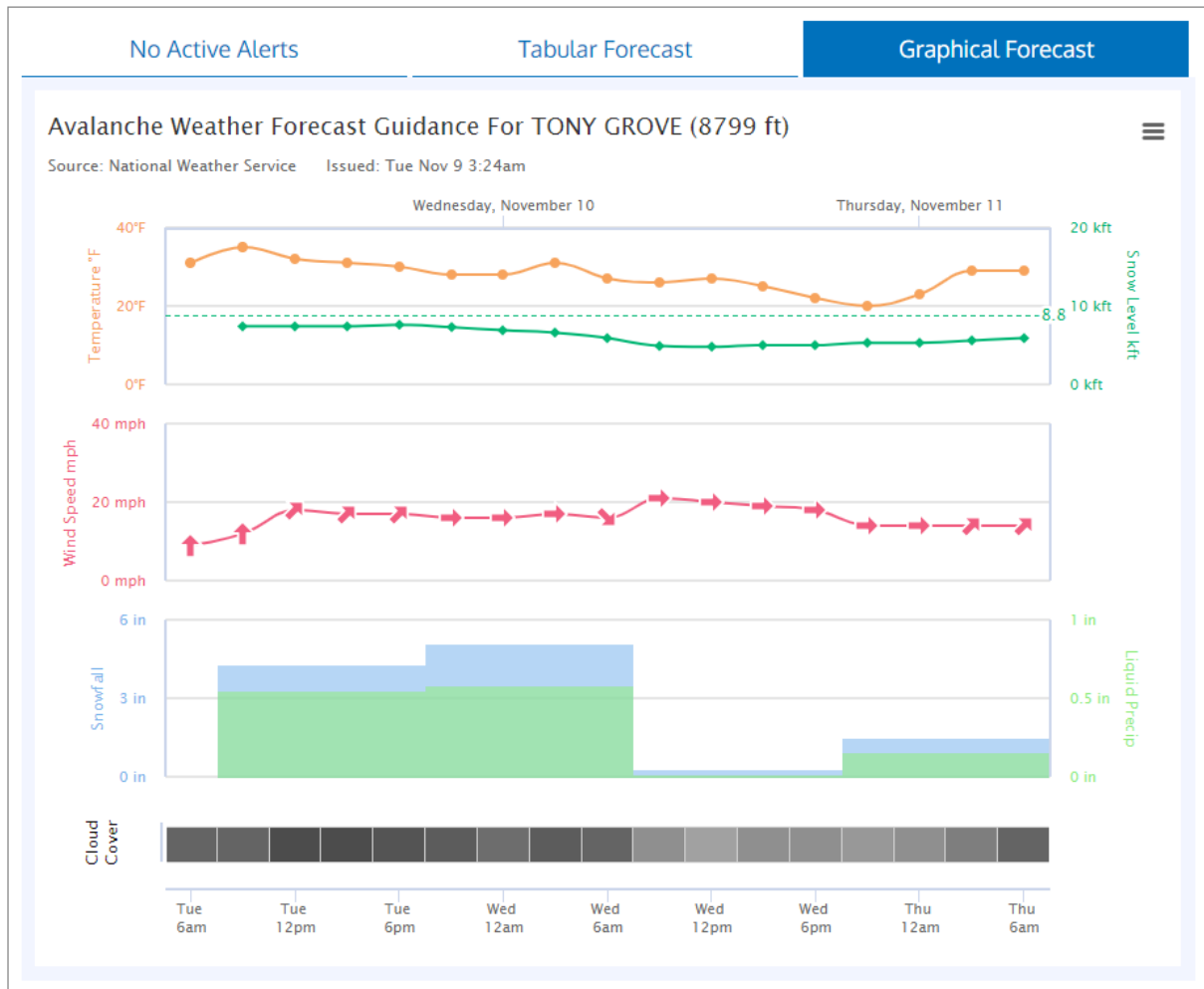
On the top half of the page all National Weather Service-issued weather alerts relevant to avalanche interests, and all avalanche center-issued Avalanche Watches and Warnings are displayed on a map, with clickable points or polygons specified by the WFO. These points or polygons are consistent with the Avalanche Weather Guidance (AVG) text product locations. Once clicked, active weather alerts from the NWS and active avalanche alerts from the avalanche centers, any relevant weather discussion, and a tabular and graphical forecast will be displayed for the selected area.

Below, the local content section is reserved for local WFO customization, and may include such things as probabilistic snowfall forecasts, snow observation information, satellite imagery, etc.

Avalanche Weather Information



Active alerts relevant to avalanche interests are displayed on a map, with clickable points or polygons



Once clicked, active alerts, a tabular forecast, and a graphical forecast are displayed for the selected area